

OPI REPORT



MAY 1989

NOTES FROM NANCY

Legislative Highlights

Clearly the major education issue before the 51st Legislature was the Montana Supreme Court decision mandating major changes in how we fund our public schools.

The legislative focus on the thorny and complex challenge of school equalization resulted in a significant reduction in the number of other proposals affecting public education.

Following are several pieces of interesting and important legislation. I appreciate your sharing this publication with your colleagues.

Nancy

H.B. 421 was one of the most significant bills dealing with teachers' retirement. Effective July 1, 1989, this legislation provides a post retirement adjustment for certain members. The adjustment will be funded through a distribution of interest earnings and will only be paid when yields are in excess of 8 percent.

Also effective July 1, 1989, S.B. 125 gives members the opportunity to purchase one year of additional service for each five years of membership service and two years of military service.

H.B. 173 delays, until 1990-91, the new method of aggregating district ANB unless the schools are more than three miles apart or more than three miles from the city limits. A phase-in would terminate on the effective date of a new equalized school funding system.

Under H.B. 374, the base for computation of ANB for school budget purposes was changed to attendance during the second semester of the preceding school year and the first semester of the current school year. This legislation will apply to school budget and foundation program support beginning July 1, 1990. The current spring semester and the 1989 fall semester will be the base for the 1990-91 budget.

H.B. 171 requires write-in candidates for an office in any election to file a declaration of intent at least 15 days before the election. This legislation, which had an immediate effective date, caused some confusion in school board elections that occurred sooner than 15 days after the Governor signed the bill. The Attorney General, subsequently, ruled that this legislation did not apply to April 4, 1989 school trustee elections.

Under H.B. 195, effective October 1, 1989, county superintendents, on appeal of a dismissal of a teacher for cause, must schedule a hearing within 10 days and hold the hearing within 30 days, unless there is a mutual agreement to extend the period. The old law specified that the hearing must be held within 40 days.

H.B. 227 moves the date that school trustees must notify tenure teachers of their re-election from April 1 to May 1. This bill had an immediate effective date.

Under H.B. 228, which is already in effect, school districts may issue and sell short-term obligations to the Board of Investments without a vote of the electors of the district. These funds can be used for remodeling, but not for construction of a facility.

Under the provisions of H.B. 230, local school trustees may waive elementary tuition instead of requiring a uniform waiver of tuition in all cases.

H.B. 275, effective July 1, 1989, removes the requirement that school trustees list appropriation items on district warrants.

H.B. 346 allows school districts or community college districts to designate school or community college facilities as tobacco-free areas. This legislation exempts school districts and community college districts from the requirement to provide designated smoking areas.

School immunization requirements were expanded in H.B. 364, which requires that all students attending preschools, vocational-technical centers, colleges and universities must be immunized, and that mumps be added to the list of required immunizations. Additionally, there is no longer a 30-day grace period for transfer students and religious exemptions must be reasserted annually by affidavit. This legislation is effective July 1, 1989.

New legislation requires approval of tuition agreements for elementary school students who live more than three miles from their resident elementary district when the student wishes to attend a closer school. This legislation, H.B. 455, had an immediate effective date.

H.B. 561 provides that teachers' tenure is not impaired if they are terminated because the financial condition of the school district required reduction in teachers.

H.B. 569 specifies that a minimum of three of the maximum seven pupil-instruction-related days, that may be conducted during a school year, be for instructional and professional development meetings or inservice training. This bill requires school districts to close schools for the instructional and professional development meetings of teachers' organizations. Teachers may attend teacher organization meetings or participate in other inservice training. This act is effective July 1, 1990.

H.B. 597 requires trustees to adopt and administer a policy of assessment for placement of any child whose previous place of instruction was a nonaccredited, nonpublic school. This bill also requires nonpublic, nonaccredited schools to annually notify the county superintendent of student attendance.

H.B. 646 clarifies that school libraries may include the Bible and other religious material. Instruction may not be given advocating sectarian or denominational doctrines. This bill had an immediate effective date.

Some of the legislation that died in the process includes:

—H.B. 20 required elementary school districts to offer kindergarten. H.B. 20 passed the House and was killed in the Senate. It was later amended by the House into S.B. 203, the school equalization bill.

—H.B. 126, which instituted a grade requirement in order to be eligible for extracurricular school activities, was tabled.

—H.B. 217, which allowed students to be nonvoting members of high school boards of trustees, died in the House Education Committee.

—H.B. 229, which authorized school districts to issue obligations to finance asbestos removal, died in the Senate.

—H.B. 254, which required recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools, died in process.

—H.B. 271 prohibited instruction relating to birth control or abortion. H.B. 271 was tabled in committee.

—H.B. 432 clarified that school districts are authorized to serve gifted and talented students. The Governor issued an amendatory veto and the sponsor chose to indefinitely postpone this bill.

—S.B. 378, which died in the Senate, prohibited any school district personnel from inflicting corporal punishment on a pupil. It also defined corporal punishment and situations in which school personnel may use physical restraint.

US WEST FOUNDATION CHOOSES BOZEMAN WOMAN AS OUTSTANDING TEACHER

The US WEST Foundation selected Bozeman Irving Elementary schoolteacher Jennifer Tuthill as Montana's US WEST's Outstanding Teacher for 1989.

Tuthill and the 13 other state finalists will be interviewed to determine which three receive paid, year-long sabbaticals.

The 14, representing US WEST's 14 states, were interviewed by a selection committee in Denver May 4. The three winners were announced at the company's annual shareholders' meeting on May 5.

Barbara Ranf, US WEST Foundation coordinator for Montana, said Tuthill was chosen because "she's dedicated to her students' success, full of enthusiasm and is an excellent ambassador for education. We can be very proud of Jennifer as a representative for education, for Montana and for US WEST."

BOB STOCKTON TO RETIRE JUNE 30

Bob Stockton, Executive Assistant for Legal Services, will retire on June 30. Bob has been with the Office of Public Instruction for 24 years. He came to the OPI from the Anaconda Aluminum Company. Bob started as the School Finance Specialist and added to his responsibilities

Pupil Transportation, State Aid Administration and Title II. Bob was Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services for four years and currently holds his present position of Executive Assistant for Legal Services.

Bob plans to spend the summer on his sailboat. This fall, he will take a trip to his "roots" country, which is Texas, to visit family members. Christmas will find him back in Montana to spend the holidays with his children. Bob has three children living in Helena—Susan Nelson, Cliff Stockton and Tom Stockton; one daughter, Lois Gilge, lives in Chinook.

A retirement reception is tentatively set for June 22 at the Capitol. For further information, please contact Linda Brandon, Legal Services Division, OPI (444-4402).

8TH ANNUAL MONTANA LAW-RELATED EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The 8th Annual Montana Law-Related Education Institute will be held July 31 through August 5, 1989. The Institute will be held in the Montana Supreme Court Chambers, State Capitol, Helena.

The Law-Related Education Institute is an innovative, unique experience for teachers interested in integrating Montana law into classroom study.

There is an enrollment limitation of 35 people. Tuition and materials are free; lodging and meal allowance will be provided. Applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For information about this program, contact Linda Brandon, Legal Services Division, OPI (444-4402), or Edward Eschler, English/Social Studies Specialist, OPI, Helena 59620 (444-4433).

LEONARD LOMBARDI CHOSEN AS OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Leonard Lombardi, Agriculture Education Specialist, OPI, was chosen as the 1989 Outstanding Educator by the Montana State University College of Agriculture and the Alpha Zeta Honor Society. He was selected to receive this award for his service to Montana agriculture as an educator and for his significant accomplishments and contributions to the field.

ART TRAIL ARTWORK DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for schools to have artwork selected and shipped for exhibition on the Charlie Russell Art Trail has been moved to June 1, 1989, to allow students more time to complete their projects.

Artwork should be sent to: Tom Marinkovich, c/o Box Elder High School, Box Elder, MT 59521.

Information on the Trail Ride part of the Art Trail will be mailed to all schools within a few days.

WINNING STUDENTS

Tina Courtney, Helena, Promising Young Writer Award for Montana

Sussex School, Missoula, State Winner in the National Historical-Pictorial Map Contest (Elementary Level)

Lolo School, Lolo, State Winner in the National Historical-Pictorial Map Contest (Middle School Level)

Culbertson Middle School (16 seventh graders), Culbertson, Rocky Mountain Anti-Tobacco Contest, First Place Award in the State of Montana

Jennifer E. DeVoe, Helena, 1989 Presidential Scholar

Patrick J. Lager, Shelby, 1989 Presidential Scholar

The following students were national winners at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas:

Deanna Meredith, Hardin, Information Processing II, Office Support Assistant

Karla Therrien, Columbia Falls, Information Processing I

Kevin Hathcock, Helena, Information Processing II

Dan Baxter, Polson, Data Specialist

Ralph Chavez, *Chad Guptill* and *James Salmonsens*, Hardin, Computer Aided Graphics Team

Gary Gates, Absarokee, Computerized Accounting

Jennifer Butorac, Hardin, Employment Skills B

THROUGH MY EYES CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

The Museum of the Rockies is honoring the visions and imaginations of Montana youth by sponsoring a special exhibition of art entitled "Through My Eyes" in the fall and winter of 1989-90 in the Museum's main exhibition hall.

Montana teachers may submit student artwork created between last September 1988 and October 12, 1989. Teachers are urged to save the best examples of student artwork from this academic year and to submit it for the "Through My Eyes" exhibition in the fall.

Teachers interested in involving their students should contact David Swingle, Director of Education, Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, Bozeman 59717 (994-5257) for a packet of guidelines and art technique suggestions.

HELP NAPE

The National Association of Partners in Education is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting business and community support of, and involvement in, our public schools. NAPE sponsors workshops and training programs for volunteers, as well as facilitates new programs in the schools. A sample of program topics includes: Training Volunteers to Teach Literacy Skills for the 21st Century; Teens as Tutors: At-Risk Youngsters as Leaders; and Intergenerational Mentorships: Design for Advancement.

NAPE is publishing volunteer information on all 50 states and has asked Montana to join in this effort, as well

as be a member of their organization. The Volunteer Coordinator in Bozeman has been targeted as the state contact person for NAPE. If you wish to see Montana recognized as a state committed to school volunteerism, please submit the following information to the Bozeman Public Schools Volunteer Coordinator before May 26:

—How many volunteers and volunteer hours were donated to your district during the 1988-89 school year?

—Do you wish to receive the free publication of the National Association of Partners in Education?

Write to Joy Kreikemeier, c/o Willson School, 404 W. Main, Bozeman 59715 or call 585-1520 noon-5 p.m.

CERTIFICATION REMINDER

Individuals seeking credits to renew their teaching certificate should keep the following in mind:

1. Credits must be obtained from a fully accredited college. A provisionally approved college is not acceptable. In addition, regular college credits must be earned, not continuing education units or some other unit of measurement. The only option to academic credit is school district inservice equivalency or individual equivalency approved in advance of the undertaking. Guidelines for these options may be obtained from Certification Services. (Individuals wishing to use any of the Math Their Way series should ensure that the conditions of this section are met.)

2. Some individuals and noneducational agencies offer credits and imply that they will count toward renewal of teaching certificates. When in doubt, check with Certification Services.

3. Credits used for renewal must have been earned during the five-year period immediately preceding the validation date of the new certificate. For example, for a certificate expiring on June 30, 1989, credits earned from summer 1984 through summer 1989 are acceptable. Renewal requirements consist of teaching experience and, in most cases, academic credits. When all requirements for renewal are not met, it results in a reinstatement category. In addition to meeting academic requirements, teachers and administrators who fall into the reinstatement category must pass the National Teacher Exam Core Battery as a condition for acquiring any further certification.

Administrators: Please review Montana School Accreditation Standard 10.55.707(8) and Montana School Law 20-4-110(3)(a) for a recent change in administrative responsibilities concerning certified personnel. Also, an unusual number of applicants have asked Certification Services at the Office of Public Instruction to provide "proof of application" to prospective employers. We do not give this service in written form because of financial and privacy constraints. When their transcripts are evaluated, applicants who must complete the National Teacher Exam Core Battery receive a letter outlining their certification status pending receipt of successful test scores. Perhaps that letter, provided by the applicant, could serve as verification of his or her intent to complete the certification process. Information about eligibility or certification will still be provided by phone if you wish to call Certification Services.

NOW'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

The National Organization for Women Foundation is sponsoring a Women's History Month Essay Contest. The contest is open to students in senior high, college and continuing education. Winners in each category will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships. For information and entry forms contact: NOW Foundation Essay Contest, 1000 16th St. N.W. #700, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)331-0066.

CALENDAR

June 18-25—Montana Visual Arts Institute, Western Montana College of UM, Dillon, Janet Athwal, OPI (444-4442) or Bobby Tilton, UM (243-4208).

June 27—"Fire Me and I'll Sue," seminar for Adult Education. Career Center, 3723 Central, Billings, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Limited to 30; cost \$90. John Moore, State Personnel Division (444-3749).

MISSING CHILDREN INFORMATION

Please compare this list with your roster of students. If you locate a name or description, contact the Dept. of Justice, Missing Children Clearinghouse, 444-3817. This list is current as of April 30, 1989.

NAME	SEX	RACE	DOB	AGE	HT/WT	HAIR	EYES	STATION
Brunchhorst, Brandy	F	W	081473	16	505/150	BRO	HAZ	Glasgow
Douglas, Mike	M	W	033174	15	503/99	BLU	BRO	Thompson Falls
Foster, Belle	F	I	011074	15	506/130	BRO	BLU	Glasgow
Green, Charles	M	W	061173	16	511/140	BRO	GRN	Polson
Jackson, Mandy	F	I	071976	13	505/115	BRO	BRO	Glasgow
James, Denny	M	I	012274	15	507/140	BRO	BLK	Polson
Knutson, Doreen	F	W	030272	17	505/105	BLN	HAZ	Great Falls
Larson, Travis	M	W	072071	17	603/185	BLN	BLU	Thompson Falls
Leptich, Mary	F	W	042874	15	505/120	BRO	BLU	Polson
Lowe, Alicia	F	W	112479	9	402/70	RED	GRN	Dept. of Justice
McArthur, Kelly	M	W	012084	5	309/50	BLN	BLU	Red Lodge
Owens, Lisa	F	W	040671	17	505/130	BRO	BRO	Kalispell
Pepe, Anthony	M	W	033184	5	304/38	BLN	HAZ	Dept. of Justice
Raggl, Stacy	F	W	052273	16	506/110	BRO	BRO	Billings
Riley, Kenneth	M	W	082271	17	601/160	BLN	GRN	Missoula
Sliwinski, Sheryl	F	W	032679	10	409/70	BLK	BLU	Dept. of Justice
(Comeau or Blöse)								
Tassemeyer, Gretchen	F	W	051472	17	507/120	BLN	BLU	Polson

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